

## ANDREA THOMPSON

## Revival

Driven by persistent Pagan roots  
 burrowing below both  
 Celtic and African streams  
 my praise needs to dig deep —  
 bring the scriptures  
 down to earth.

As a girl, instead of church  
 or formal spiritual instruction  
 I was given free run —  
*Your people are Christian*  
*but when you're old enough*  
*you can follow any tradition.*

So I tried them all on  
 Ooooooooooooooooooooo...  
 BuddhismJudaismIslamHinduismmmmm...  
 but never could find a single tribe  
 to which I felt I belonged.

Instead, dug deep beneath  
 to the source of the stream  
 that feeds the local watering hole  
 with universal energy.

Oya becomes kali  
 Venus, Aphrodite  
 Inanna becomes Persephone  
 Isis becomes Mary.

An eclectic array of deities  
 simmering like spices  
 in the cauldron of my psyche.

During the summer  
 of the smash-hit romantic comedy  
 I keep finding myself  
 repeating the words of the title

though never did see the movie.  
 There's something about Mary.

There's something about Mary when she finds me  
 in the most unsuspecting places —

outside churches, yes of course  
 but also down the street  
 in front of the Portuguese lady's house  
 you know the one who owns the corner store?

There's something about the way she stops me  
 as I walk past a hospital named after her husband  
 sacred gardener saint — who tended her devotion.

Something in the way I am called  
 into her court-yard full of hopeful offerings  
 to stand perplexed before the plexi-glass  
 of her concrete chapel  
 mingling with lingering blessings and prayers  
 still dangling mid-air...

There's something about Mary  
 when she finds me  
 in the most unsuspecting places.

Amazing, the way I am wakened  
 when I tune in to her graces.

Quintessential female artist —  
 Western spiritual delegate —  
 Became vessel without protest —

Maternal anima incarnate.

Beneath blue veil and bared palms  
 a pantheon of Goddesses.

*Writer and spoken-word artist Andrea Thompson has performed her work at venues across North America and overseas for the past twenty years. She is the co-editor of the anthology Other Tongues: Mixed Race Women Speak Out, author of the poetry collection Eating the Seed, and creator of the Urban Muisic Award nominated CD, One. Andrea is a graduate of the University of Guelph's MFA Creative Writing program, and currently teaches spoken word through the Ontario College of Art and Design's Continuing Studies department. Her first novel, Over Our Heads, is forthcoming in 2014 with Inanna Publications.*